

# Pottery specialization, social organization and the origin of early state: the comparison study between Taosi Culture and Erlitou Culture

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### 論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

Craft specialization and social complexity have been traditionally viewed as closely related, with craft specialization often considered a key factor in the formation of early states. However, recent studies have focused on explaining the dynamic and specific relationship between craft specialization and certain aspects of social complexity, rather than testing simple evolutionary relationships. Pottery, as an important craft product in ancient societies, can provide valuable insights into the social context of production and the political and social structures of past economies. However, there are several problems with the study of pottery production and specialization in the formation of early Chinese states, such as an overemphasis on prestige pottery and oversimplification of the relationship between pottery production and state formation. Thus, it is necessary to re-examine pottery production during the formation of early Chinese states and distinguish the particular paths and relationships between pottery specialization and early state formation.

To achieve this goal, this research chose two cultures, the Taosi and Erlitou cultures, as case studies. These two cultures represent the pre-state period and the early state stage, respectively, providing information about the specific trajectory of the early state in China. The study of pottery from these two cultures offers a clear and specific view of the relationship between pottery specialization and early state formation in China. This study adopts a dynamic perspective to examine pottery production specialization in three dimensions: craft landscape, standardization and differentiation, and exchange and consumption patterns. Multiple quantitative methods, including various geometric morphometric analysis (GMM), coefficient of variation (CV) algorithms, and multivariate analysis, were applied to investigate different components of the pottery production system. These applications allow for a more objective comparison of data between the two cultures and overcome the subjectivity of traditional typologies and the interference of previous evolutionary models.

This dissertation finds that during the formation of the early Chinese state, pottery production became more complex, and the degree of specialization deepened overall. This included changes in the production of prestige pottery under the increasing intervention of the elite, as well as in the specialization of the production of ordinary pottery during the labor division and urbanization processes. However, from a detailed perspective, the production of pottery during the formation of the early Chinese state shows a different pattern than previously expected. Firstly, by comparing the degree of change of ordinary and prestige pottery, the study found that the degree of specialization change in prestige pottery was much higher

than that of ordinary pottery, indicating that political power played an important role in influencing pottery production during the early states formation in China. In addition, the three dimensions of pottery specialization showed asynchronous changes in the process, illustrating the dynamics of pottery specialization in the state formation process. Even during the Erlitou period, prestige pottery production was not centrally controlled within the political economy system. The Erlitou palace elite gained white pottery from a distant workshop but did not fully control production. Such behavior was probably due to the limited power in the early period of the political integration process and the preciousness of white pottery compared with bronze and turquoise. The research also found that the production of ordinary pottery existed in more diverse forms in Erlitou society compared with Taosi society due to the diverse social organization and different consumption traditions in the early state.

Therefore, the relationship between specialization in pottery production and early state formation is dynamic. Although there is a strong link between deepening specialization and social complexity in general trends, pottery specialization does not necessarily correspond simply to social changes. The relationship is also determined by the function of the pottery, its social significance, and the political strategy in the early formation process.